

INFORMATION REPORT CD NO.

COUNTRY Cuba

DATE DISTR. 11 JUL 80

SUBJECT Results of Castellanos' Victory in Habana
 Mayoralty Campaign

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SUPPLEMENT TO
 REPORT NO.

1. As a reward for the assistance given to Nicolas Castellanos in the recent mayoralty campaign in Habana, the Partido Socialista Popular (Cuban Communist Party) has asked to have party members named to head the Departamento de Cultura y Turismo, the Departamento de Gobernacion, and the Presidencia del Ayuntamiento. Castellanos has indicated his willingness to give the Communists the directorship of two of the departments but has not decided which they will be. The Communists appear to be asking for much more than they actually expect to get, thinking that in this way they will obtain at least one of their requests.
2. The Departamento de Cultura y Turismo, which is responsible for propaganda and civic affairs, would give the Communists an excellent medium for spreading propaganda with official backing and the sanction of the municipal government. This department also has jurisdiction over the city's schools, civic institutions, and public auditoriums. The Departamento de Gobernacion is in charge of controlling and directing the municipal police. It is also responsible for issuing permits for all public meetings, parades, demonstrations, and workers' congresses. The Presidente del Ayuntamiento of Habana has an important position since he acts as mayor during the absence of the mayor. He also presides over the city council and assemblies, and regulates debates.
3. Blas Roca was the leader of the "United Opposition Front" against the Prio regime in the election and played an important part in Castellanos' election. Thus his position in the PSP has been strengthened and the Party has recognized his ability as a leader in Cuban politics. The officials of other political parties who had made pacts with the PSP for support in the electoral campaign now owe the PSP a debt which will have to be paid by appointing Communists to municipal offices throughout Cuba, which will provide the PSP with an opportunity to obtain funds to replenish its much depleted treasury.
4. The Communists will now be able to plan their campaign for the election of Fulgencio Batista in 1952 as President of Cuba. Batista has displayed his ability to get along with the PSP and has an excellent opportunity to win the election if Miguel Suarez Fernandez is not nominated as the candidate for the Prio forces.

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